

# GETTING CONNECTED RESOURCES FOR VETERAN FARMERS



There are an increasing number of Washington State and national organizations dedicated to helping military veterans connect to community and careers with agricultural programs.

## **This fact sheet includes information on:**

- Programs in Washington State
- National Programs

## **Programs in Washington State**

### **Farmer Veteran Coalition, Washington Chapter**

[farmvetco.org](http://farmvetco.org)

[Washington@farmvetco.org](mailto:Washington@farmvetco.org) or

[facebook.com/Washingtonfarmvetco](https://facebook.com/Washingtonfarmvetco)

Farmer Veteran Coalition is a non-profit organization that assists veterans and currently serving members of the Armed Forces embark on careers in agriculture. The Washington State chapter is a local platform for veterans interested in agriculture and food system programs, support, mentorship and careers. Members have access to the national programs including "Homegrown by Heroes," the official farmer veteran branding program of America, a Farming Fellowship Fund, and a range of education, partner discounts, and training programs.

### **Growing Veterans**

[growingveterans.org](http://growingveterans.org)

360-445-2399 or [staff@growingveterans.org](mailto:staff@growingveterans.org)

Growing Veterans operates primarily in Northwest Washington with a certified organic farm in Whatcom County that brings local veterans and community members together. Growing Veterans offers peer support and training accredited by the Washington Mental Health Counselors Association. Led by Post 9/11 Vets, Growing Veterans' mission is to empower military veterans to grow food, community, and each other.

### **GRUB's Victory Farm**

[goodgrub.org/victory-farm](http://goodgrub.org/victory-farm)

360-753-5522 or [vgp@goodgrub.org](mailto:vgp@goodgrub.org)

The Victory Farm in Thurston County offers hands-on opportunities for veterans to develop their skills in sustainable small-scale urban agriculture and food production. Its mission is to empower veterans, active duty service members and their families to establish strong roots in their community by providing opportunities to connect with community and others who have served or are currently serving; helping to break down the barriers of isolation while creating a sense of belonging. GRuB (Garden-Raised Bounty) is a community-based nonprofit bringing people together around food and agriculture.

### **Roots to Road**

[partnersincareers.org](http://partnersincareers.org)

360-696-8417

Roots to Road offers small-scale farm training to veterans participating in Partners in Careers programs. A farm plot at WSU Clark County Extension Heritage Farm is farmed by the participants. A portion of the produce goes to local food banks and pantries. Partners in Careers helps people achieve self-sufficiency through specialized job training and employment services.

### **Veterans Conservation Corps**

[dva.wa.gov/program/veterans-conservation-corps](http://dva.wa.gov/program/veterans-conservation-corps)

[vcc@dva.wa.gov](mailto:vcc@dva.wa.gov)

The Veterans Conservation Corps (VCC), a program of the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), provides opportunities for veterans to connect with nature in their own way through habitat restoration and farming activities and to learn about transitioning to employment opportunities in agriculture and natural resources. Working with partners throughout Washington, VCC operates a number of farming-related internships available to veterans, [dva.wa.gov/benefits/internships](http://dva.wa.gov/benefits/internships), and is developing a farmer training and incubator program at the Veterans Farm at Orting.

## VETS\_CAFE

[vets-cafe.org](http://vets-cafe.org)  
[vetscafeolywa@gmail.com](mailto:vetscafeolywa@gmail.com) or  
[facebook.com/VETS.CAFE](https://facebook.com/VETS.CAFE)

VETS\_CAFE offers permaculture certification, accredited academic internships, full Veteran Service Organization support and benefit mentoring on its 120-acre farm in Thurston County. A project of the Veterans' Ecological Trades Collective (501c3), its mission is to "support veterans and allies in acquiring skills that launch or refine careers in Conservation, Agriculture, Forestry and Ecological Design."

## Vets on the Farm

[sccd.org/votf](http://sccd.org/votf)  
509-535-7274

Vets on the Farm is a Spokane Conservation District program that has expanded into other counties with support from the Conservation Commission. Designed for veterans seeking a new mission and a way to transition back into civilian life through careers in agriculture, farming, ranching, or other conservation-based industries, Spokane Vets on the Farm operates an incubator farm and farm stand. It also offers transition resources, including education opportunities with WSU Extension and Spokane Community Colleges, community networking, and employment support.

## National Programs

### AgrAbility: Cultivating Accessible Agriculture

[agrability.org/resources/veterans/](http://agrability.org/resources/veterans/)

Aggregates a wealth of online resources for veterans and beginning farmers, including dedicated websites, veteran-run training programs, guides to resources, and financial and educational opportunities.

## Farmland, Farm Employment, and Training Program Locator for Veterans

[ncat.org/atf-map/](http://ncat.org/atf-map/)

National Center for Appropriate Technology, ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture Program maintains a national database where farmers who want to employ veterans can list jobs; landowners can list farmland available to veterans; organizations can list agriculture training programs for veterans; and veterans who are already farming can list their farms. Organizations can list events for veterans interested in agriculture.

## Veterans in Agriculture Listserv

Sign up at [lists.ncat.org/mailman/listinfo/vetsinag](http://lists.ncat.org/mailman/listinfo/vetsinag)

National Center for Appropriate Technology, ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture Program hosts the "Veterans in Agriculture Listserv," which connects farmers, veterans farming or interested in farming, and organizations that work with farmer-veterans. The list is a place to share information about workshops, seek technical assistance on farming-related questions and share information on agriculture topics.

## USDA Veteran Farmers Resources

[newfarmers.usda.gov/veterans](http://newfarmers.usda.gov/veterans)

Links to federal programs and training opportunities, as well as resources for careers in agriculture.



1. Resources for Small Farms in Washington
3. Resources for Spanish-Speaking Farmers
4. Resources for Hmong Farmers